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MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3rd Floor
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

August 16, 2016 - 7:30 PM

Mayor Daniel Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE PASSING OF FORMER MAYOR JOSEPH GRABINSKI

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Pauline Schaefer, Michael Winkler, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, and Ann Letendre

Absent: Laura Bush, Steve Peterson and Virginia Gingras

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Jim Tomko, 68 Westwood Drive, commented on the crumbling foundation issue and questioned the "influential tax" that appears on certain properties in town.

Wendy Padula, 23 Eliot Drive, appreciates what the town has done concerning the crumbling foundation issue, noting the letter sent to residents and the information on the Town of Vernon's website.

Maryann Levesque, 183 Bolton Road, expressed her concerns over the crumbling foundation issue and the State's response. Under Public Act 16-45 effective October 1, 2016, a homeowner, with an engineer's report, may request a reassessment due to a deteriorating foundation. This may lead to loss of tax revenue to the town and requests that town leaders contact the Office of Policy and Management to request reimbursement of tax loss due to PA 16-45. Secretary Note: Speaker provided OPM contact information to be retained for the record.

Jeff Carlson, 76 Valley Falls Road, spoke to develop an open space management plan, particularly for the preservation of monarch butterflies. The field on Valley Falls Road, predominantly milkweed, was cut by the town the first week of August, after the monarch butterflies had laid their eggs, thus eliminating the only food these caterpillars consume. He requests that in the future, the town mow this field in early December.

Allen Sheridan, 36 Christopher Drive, spoke on the Journal Inquirer article concerning Fire Chief Call. Questioned when the town will appoint an interim or permanent fire chief.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:50 PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS

Presentation to the Town Council by Mayor Daniel A. Champagne on various topics.

- A tree planting ceremony will be planned in remembrance of former mayor, Joe Grabinski. More information is forthcoming.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony was held last Thursday for ECHN's new eating disorder center at Rockville General Hospital.
- The tax sale held on August 11, 2016 was a success.
- National Night Out was a huge success. Thank you to all involved.
- The Summer Concert Series continues, with this being the final week.
- Letters have been formulated to the residents affected by the crumbling cement issue.
- Summer work program and summer parks programs concluded with an awards and talent event. Thank you to our youth service bureau and the parks and recreation department for another successful, fun-filled season.
- Reminder that there is one council meeting scheduled for September 20th in council chambers.
- At that meeting, we would like to invite all those first responders assisting in the rescue of the family on East Street after the house explosion. We are very fortunate to have such brave and skilled fire, police, EMS, CERT and emergency managers working on our behalf. Donations are coming in to aid the family of Steven Kerstetter. He wanted to thank the first responders and the community for their prayers and support.
- Council members have been given the town's bond rating, which is the highest rating it could have. Thank you to Jim Luddecke and the Town Council for their hard work.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented # C1 – C9. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request for the Town Council to approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Year .**
(A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated August 3, 2016 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES EIGHT (8) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$6564.56 AND SEVENTEEN (17) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$3800.08, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED AUGUST 3, 2016.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #59, #60, #61, #62 and #63 for fiscal year 2015-2016 as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda.** (See budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #59, #60, #61, #62 and #63 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY JAMES M. LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment Eleanor Bellemore, (R), 14 Tracy Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, said appointment to commence on August 17, 2016 and expires June 30, 2018.** (A copy of Ms. Bellemore's resume is included for Council review. Ms. Bellemore will be completing the unexpired term of Joseph Grabinski.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. § 7-105 AND CHARTER CHAPTER IX, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ELEANOR BELLEMORE, (R), 14 TRACY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON AUGUST 17, 2016 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2018.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Sally Geer, (U), 15 Hatch Hill Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee, said appointment to commence on August 17, 2016 and expires June 30, 2017.** (A copy of Ms. Geer's resume is included for Council review. Ms. Geer is completing the unexpired term of Joseph Grabinski.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAP. XV, SEC. 3; EST. 03-02-1982, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF SALLY GEER, (U), 15 HATCH HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 17, 2016 AND EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2017.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Roxann Lannan, (D), 655 Talcottville Road, #174, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee, said term to commence August 17, 2016 and expires June 30, 2019.** (A copy of Ms. Lannan's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAP. XV, SEC. 3; EST. 03-02-1982, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ROXANN LANNAN, (D), 655 TALCOTTVILLE ROAD, #174, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 17, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2019.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Paul Jonas, (U), 27 Quarry Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said appointment to commence on September**

1, 2016 and expires on August 30, 2019. (A copy of Mr. Jonas' resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF PAUL JONAS, (U), 27 QUARRY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 AND ENDS AUGUST 30, 2019.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Charles Ayer, (R), 42 Rambling Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said appointment to commence September 1, 2016 and expires on August 30, 2019.** (A copy of Mr. Ayer's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARLES AYER, (R), 42 RAMBLING ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON AUGUST 30, 2019.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of John Morissette, (U), 10 Susan Road, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said appointment to commence on September 1, 2016 and expires on August 30, 2019.** (A copy of Mr. Morissette's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN MORISSETTE, (U), 10 SUSAN ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON AUGUST 30, 2019.

- C 9. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Maryann Levesque, (U), 183 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board, said appointment to commence on August 17, 2016 and expires December 31, 2018.** (A copy of Ms. Levesque's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #226, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MARYANN

LEVESQUE, (U), 183 BOLTON ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 17, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council approve a general wage increase for the Registrar of Voters.** (See memorandum dated August 10, 2016 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTIONS 9-194 AND 9-195, MOVES TO APPROVE THE ONE AND ONE HALF PERCENT (1.5%) INCREASE FOR EACH REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve a one and one half percent (1.5%) increase for each Registrar of Voters for the Town of Vernon. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the disposal or sale of fixed assets from the Department of Public Works.** (See memorandum dated August 10, 2016 from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OR SALE OF FIVE (5) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET REQUEST FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, made a motion to approve the disposal or sale of five department of public works vehicles. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Request the Town Council send proposed ordinance "Ordinance No. _____, An Ordinance Amending Section 3-1 Building Permit Fees; Certificates of Occupancy Fees", to a public hearing. (A copy of a memorandum from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council dated August 11, 2016 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS FIVE AND SIX OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES", HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING

REGARDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "*ORDINANCE No. _____, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3-1 BUILDING PERMIT FEES; CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY FEES*", AT 8:00 PM ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 LOCATED AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to schedule a public hearing to hear comments and answer questions relative to a proposed ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending Section 3-1 Building Permit Fees; Certificates of Occupancy Fees" on September 20, 2016 at 8:00 PM, Third Floor, Memorial Building, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. The Mayor spoke on this matter. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED
None

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.
None

N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
None

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **JULY 19, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the July 19, 2016 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

P.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION

1. Monthly Report for May, 2016 for the Vernon Town Clerk's Office as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
2. Monthly Report for June, 2016 for the Vernon Town Clerk's Office as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
3. Monthly Report for July, 2016 for the Vernon Town Clerk's Office as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.

Adjourn (7:58 PM)

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary